

S/N 09/338,045
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please revise the claims to read as follows:

1-30. (Canceled)

SUB C17

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in claim 30 further comprising:~~ A method of managing an object in a thread stack based garbage collected virtual machine, said method comprising:

storing an object data structure in the thread stack comprising a reference to the object and a reference to a previously stored object data structure in the stack, whereby the object data structure and the previously stored object data structure form a root set of data object structures;

linking the object data structure to the previously stored object data structure;

storing a variable pointing to the previously stored object data structure at the top of the stack;

using the variable when storing a new object data structure; and

updating the variable with the new object data structure reference.

32. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 31 further comprising:

saving the variable pointer;

storing the object data structure;

updating the variable with the reference to the latest stored object data structure;

performing the process ; and

restoring the stack pointer.

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33-37. (Canceled)

38. (New) A method of garbage collecting memory, said memory having objects, said objects having object references in a thread stack, said method comprising:

retrieving an object pointer structure from the thread stack;
extracting, from the object pointer structure, a reference to its corresponding object and a reference to a next object pointer structure;
performing said retrieving and said extracting with respect to a next, subsequent and last object pointer structures, whereby the retrieved object references identify a root set of objects within the memory; and
reclaiming the memory not used by the root set of objects.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

compacting the root set of objects so that they are contiguous in memory and updating all object pointers and references in the thread stack.

40. (New) A method of garbage collecting memory, said memory having objects, said objects having object references in a thread stack, said method comprising:

storing object pointer structures in the thread stack, each object pointer comprising a reference to an object and a reference to a subsequent object pointer in the thread stack such that the object pointer structures are a linked list and identify a root set of objects;
identifying all objects referenced directly or indirectly by the root set objects; and
reclaiming the memory space not used by the identified objects.

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41. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

storing a variable referencing to the last stored object pointer;
using the variable when storing a new object pointer; and
updating the variable with the new object pointer reference.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

compacting the identified set of objects so that they are contiguous and updating all
object references in the stack.